

To whom it may concern: I am writing to encourage the FCC to reject petition 04-160, which seeks to restrict the ability of satellite radio to broadcast local traffic and weather information. Satellite radio provides a variety and quality of entertainment and news programming that are simply not available anywhere else. In my own case, I am a classical music fan. While the nearby city of Albuquerque has a wonderful classical station (KHFM), it has repeatedly been moved to weaker spots on the FM dial over the past few years. As a result, we are no longer able to receive the KHFM signal at our home, due to interference from the nearby Sandia mountains. I also enjoy country music, and Albuquerque has two commercial country stations with strong signals. Unfortunately, they are essentially indistinguishable: both play the same unimaginative mix of cloying top-40s songs, have disk jockeys who chatter inanely, and dedicate an inordinate amount of time to increasingly obnoxious commercial messages. Subscribing to XM has made an enormous difference in my daily enjoyment of the radio, during my commute to work and at home in the evenings. The many stations available provide listeners with access to a vast array of popular and "niche" music styles, and the news selections include national and international perspectives. The freedom of programming and the lack of commercial interruptions and influences make this the most refreshing entertainment option available today. Restricting the broadcasting content of XM and Sirius strikes me as an unfair limit on their ability to provide existing customers with desired services, and to attract more customers to their high-quality product. I respectfully urge you to reject petition 04-160.